GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:423
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2001
WITHDRAWAL OF NEPALI CITIZENSHIP
BHIM PRASAD DAHAL;NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Nepalese Government have taken a decision to withdraw Nepali Citizenship to thousands of People of Indian origin in Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the Government propose to take up this issue with the Nepalese Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) It is a declaration of the Supreme Court of Nepal, not any decision by His Majesty`s Government of Nepal, that has resulted in this situation.

(b) On July 23, 2001 the Supreme Court of Nepal declared 30,000 out of 34,090 citizenship certificates issued under the aegis of a one man Commission appointed in 1997, by the then His Majesty`s Government of Nepal, as invalid on grounds of procedural deficiencies. The Home Minister of Nepal has however stated in the Nepalese Parliament on August 5, 2001 that the procedural deficiencies would be made good and the Citizenship Certificates would be issued afresh to those whose citizenship had been revoked by the Supreme Court.

(c) and (d) Though, the issue of Citizenship Certificates to Nepali citizens is an entirely internal matter of Nepal, our concerns in this regard have been made known.